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**Title :** Intragroup behavioural differences in *Orcinus orca* of Avacha bay, Kamchatka

**Category :** Behavior

**Student :** M.A./M.S.

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**Abstract :** In this work we describe our studies of asymmetry in behavior of *Orcinus orca* in Avacha bay.

Data presented here were collected in August- September of 2001, 2002. Observations were done with the tripod mounted spotingscope Geoma-25-S and binoculars: Tasco 10X30, "Bercut" 12X40. The cliff of the Starichkov island (130 m) was used as a observation platform.

For each pod we collected data on position, direction of movement, behavior of animals, as well as date, time and weather conditions. Behavior of whales was divided in to four types: feeding, social interactions, interactions with various vessels and moving. Using "real time scanning" method for data collection we were able to detect changes in whale behavior. Simultaneously we have collected data on vessel presence and their activity within arena.

While feeding Orcas presented no intragroup difference in behavior ( $n=82$ ). However, adult males have been observed feeding at some distance from the group more often (21,95%,  $n=18$ ) then other animals of the pod (1,22 %,  $n=1$ ). During social interactions such behavioral acts as spy hop, breach etc. were mainly (60,71%) demonstrated by "others". Such activities were rare (3,75%) in Mom-calf pairs.

Behavior of the Orcas of the same pod differed the most during "pod-vessel" interactions. We observed 75 cases of such interactions and in 72% ( $n=54$ ) vessel caused the change in the behavior. Whales reacted uniform in 72,2% ( $n=39$ ) cases, in 27,8% ( $n=15$ ) reaction differed. The frequency of avoiding behavior was equal for all members of the pod; neutral reaction was exhibited by mature males only in 38% of cases and in 74% of cases they were exploring the source of disturbance. Apparently, mature males in *Orcinus orca*, besides other functions, are the "explorers" and "guards" of the pod. Thus, in *Orcinus orca*, animals of the pod may differ in behavioral reaction to the vessel, furthermore, in the absence of anthropogenic disturbance members of the pod may differ in behavior and in the frequency of some behavioral acts display.